Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for fermentative production of S-adenosylmethionine (SAM), which comprises

culturing a bacterial strain of the genus E.Coli ~~obtainable~~ obtained from a starting strain and having ~~increased~~ SAM-synthetase activity increased by at least a factor of 2, compared to said starting strain, in a culture medium,

secreting SAM by said bacterial strain ~~secreting SAM~~ into said culture medium and

removing said SAM ~~being removed~~ from said culture medium.

Claim 2 (Original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bacterial strain used is a strain of the family *Enterobacteriaceae*.

Claim 3 (Original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bacterial strain used is a strain of the genus *Escherichia*.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim

1, wherein the SAM synthetase activity increased is that of ~~used is~~ a protein comprising the sequence ~~(~~SEQ ID NO: 1~~)~~.

Claims 5-7: Canceled.

Claim 8 (Original): The method as claimed in claim 1, comprising culturing the bacterial strain in a minimal salt medium.

Claim 9 (Original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a carbon source is used and is selected from the groups consisting of glucose and glycerol.

Claim 10 (Original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a nitrogen source is used and is selected from the group consisting of urea, ammonia, ammonia salts, and nitrate salts.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim~~s~~ 1, comprising incubating the bacterial strain under aerobic culturing conditions over a period of 16-150 h ~~and in the range of the~~ at an optimal growth temperature ~~optimal~~ for the particular bacterial strain.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim~~s~~

~~1~~ 8, wherein L-methionine is added to the minimal salt medium.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claims ~~1~~ 12, wherein L-methionine is added to the minimal salt medium at a concentration of between 0.05 and 25 g/l.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claims ~~1~~ 12, wherein L-methionine is added to the minimal salt medium at concentration of between 1 and 5 g/l.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim ~~1~~ 8, wherein D,L-methionine is added to the minimal salt medium.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim ~~1~~ 15, wherein D,L-methionine is added to the minimal salt medium at a concentration of between 0.05 and 25 g/l.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim ~~1~~ 15, wherein D,L-methionine is added to the minimal salt medium at a concentration of between 1 and 5 g/l.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claims 1, wherein SAM is recovered from the culture medium by centrifugation of said culture medium and wherein a ~~by~~ subsequent

purification step ~~means~~ selected from the group consisting of ~~subsequent~~ chromatographic purification, complexing, filtration, cross flow filtration, and precipitation of SAM is performed.